THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840].

"*For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring*" (ACTS 17: 28).

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GOOD TIDINGS FROM ZION.

BY THE FIRST PRESIDENCY.

[THE Christmas Message of the First Presidency comes to the *Star* somewhat later this year than usually, but we feel assured that it will be read with no less interest. It is a splendid, faith-promoting address.—ED.]

Hail to the dawn of another Christmas day! The clash of arms, the roar of cannon, the bursting of shells, the shouts of victory, the groans of defeat, even the cries of the wounded and the despairing moans of the dying, echoing from afar, do not silence the carols and the joy-bells that proclaim the opening of the Christmas morn. Nor do the towering war-clouds that blacken the sky of the eastern world shut in the shining rays of the Sun of Righteousness, that stream forth on the anniversary of the Redeemer's birth, and herald the coming of His millennial reign. The darkest hour precedes the dawn. The night lingers, but the day is breaking with resplendent glory. So let gladness be unrestrained and benisons be freely uttered, and all the good wishes and good tidings of the season usher in this universal holiday!

We all have many things to rejoice over and be thankful for. Especially have the people of these mountain vales abundant cause for gratitude to the Giver of all good. Peace prevails here while tumult and horror stalk abroad. The woes of mankind have been many and deep since Christmas last. The blood of hosts of the slain staining the soil of continental Europe, the wrecked lives and homes of widows and orphans, and the smoking ruins of graud and sacred edifices and treasured monuments of art and skill, cry aloud for vengeance. The Satanic destroyers who, for personal or

national greed and lust for power, have raised hell upon earth, must pay the penalty for their deeds of rapine, murder, and diabolism through ages of retribution and remorse. But while devastation has raged and grim death has reaped a horrible harvest, there have been such heroic deeds and proofs of loyalty and devotion to the cause of justice and liberty, and exhibitions of generosity and unselfishness, and means available for succor and help, as to glorify humanity and give great cause for general gladness.

LATTER-DAY SAINTS REJOICE.

Among the numerous reasons for rejoicing by the Latter-day Saints are the progress and improvement of the organizations of the Priesthood and the auxiliary organizations of the Church. The quorums of High Priests, Seventies, Elders, Priests, Teachers, and Deacons, each shows advancement in the study of Church publications, attendance at the meetings of their several organizations, and in general interest in the great cause for the building up of which they have been ordained. There is a better understanding of their respective relationships than has ever before appeared in their history.

The missions abroad are supplied generously from the ranks of the Higher Priesthood and about 1,400 of that calling are in active work among the nations. The notion that their efforts are confined to the so-called "Christian" countries is dispelled by the excellent reports from such "heathen" lands as Hawaii, Samoa, Tonga, the Society Islands, South Africa, New Zealand, Japan, etc., where converts of the natives and their progress in civilized learning, languages, customs, dress, music, social order, etc., under "Mormon" influence and tuition, are the wonder of the well-informed. Our foreign missionary work has been somewhat impeded by the great world's conflict now impending, by the calling to the colors of a large number of our young men, and by the rigidity of rules concerning passports.

But there is cause for rejoicing in the fact that the example set by our soldiers, and the spirit they exhibit, make sermons louder than words and silence the tongue of slanderers in pulpit or on platform who clamor about "Mormon disloyalty." The prejudice that caused the exclusion of our missionaries from certain places is giving-way before the light of reason, and religious liberty will soon have sway.

RELIEF SOCIETY WORK.

As to the auxiliaries: The Relief Society, organized by the Prophet Joseph Smith at Nauvoo, Illinois, March 17th, 1842, with eighteen members, has increased in numbers to about 50,000. It has expanded in its aims and activities until it has reached out to all points of the civilized world. It has not only supplied the needs of the poor and distressed at home, expending for various purposes

about $150,000 in a year, but has aided notably in the Red Cross work, the conservation movement, the Women's Council of Defense, the production of food-stuffs, the storing of wheat, and the performance of temple ordinances for the dead, serving therefor more than twenty-five thousand days in a single year.

For the benefit of the fund to help build the Canadian and Hawaiian Temples, in process of construction, the Society, during the past year, gathered, through the so-called "Penny-fund," more than $12,000 as a voluntary donation without noise or public collections. In addition to the monthly calls upon the saints in their homes, the officers of the Society have made, during the year, more than 88,000 special visits to the sick. The burial-clothing department, recently established, is in every way successful. So is the gardening and home improvement feature of the practical instruction, commenced four years before the national movement was instituted.

The Relief Society Magazine, now in its fourth volume, is a powerful help to the progress of the Society, and is self-sustaining financially and otherwise. Prominent ladies in the organization have received National and State recognition in official places associated with the patriotic organizations of the United States. The Relief Society was the first real woman's institution of latter days and maintains its leadership for woman's progress, the world's uplifting, and the noble work of succor and salvation.

DESERET SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The Deseret Sunday School Union also continues to move forward in the promotion of human advancement. Under its supervision, according to its last annual report, there has been an increase of 32 schools, making a total of 1,394, with 21,126 officers and teachers, 147,929 regular grade pupils, 12,859 parents in actual every-Sunday attendance, cradle-roll, 15,849; Sunday School Boards in the different Stakes, 824; totaling altogether, 198,587.

The Sunday-school work has progressed rapidly in every department, notwithstanding the drawback occasioned by the absence of a large number of experienced officers and teachers who have been called to serve their country in the training camps and other positions, in the great army which is organized for the defense of our nation, and other nations, menaced by the mighty power that is endeavoring to crush out liberty and dominate the world. It is gratifying to know that these teachers of children in the principles of everlasting life carry with them, into the fields of strife, the pure spirit of abiding peace and of championship for the rights of man; also that the children in the Sunday schools have joined in the spirit of sacrifice, and, by their ten-cent contributions, over eleven thousand dollars was gathered from them for the benefit of the Red Cross fund.

Lessons of self-sacrifice and service have been diligently taught

and applied, and the war gardens, the preservation of fruits and the conservation of food, which have been successfully undertaken by the Sunday-school children, are evidences of the practical application of the lessons they have been taught. The *Juvenile Instructor* continues to be a most interesting and valuable publication, and its influence in the great work of Sunday-school teaching is and has been invaluable. Numerous text-books also have been published and used in the Sunday school to great advantage. It must be greatly encouraging to our people to know that over 21,000 faithful and devoted men and women are constantly laboring in the Sunday-school work of training the rising generation to become faithful Latter-day Saints.

Y. M. M. I. A. WORK.

The Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, which was organized June the 10th, 1875, under the direction of President Brigham Young, has steadily grown until it has a membership of 36,916, with 4,842 officers. It is one of the standard auxiliaries of the Church, and is under the immediate supervision of the general authorities. It was never in so good a condition as at present, nor were the opportunities of its advancement and prospects for its future success ever better than at the present time. It has branches in every Ward and Stake and Mission, it has more than 3,000 members abroad, its influence extends to all parts of the world. This is immensely aided by the publication of the *Improvement Era*, a monthly magazine of high literary merit, equal to that of prominent scientific and religious journals. It has an increasing circulation, and treats of religious, philosophical, historical, and scientific subjects, and is up-to-date in every respect. A free copy is sent to every missionary in the different fields abroad, and keeps them informed regarding the movements of the Church and its varied interests, and its light is reflected and diffused in that manner.

The annual publication since 1897 of manuals for class studies carries suitable instruction to all young people of the Church, creating a desire for the acquisition of useful knowledge for debating, for training in elocution and intellectual growth, which are invaluable. The aims of this association are also to impress on the youth of our people a testimony of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, to qualify them to succeed in public speaking, to prepare them to officiate in the offices of the priesthood as well as to be pure in life and conduct and make them useful in social and educational affairs, and also in official positions in city and county and state and nation. Associated with this organization is the scout movement, which has become affiliated with the "National Boy Scouts of America." This is creating an interest among the boys of our community in practical duties, and aids in their development into perfect manhood, physically, intellectu-

ally and spiritually. The growth and extent of this splendid organization is and should be one more cause of rejoicing at this festive season.

Y. L. M. I. A. PROGRESS.

The Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association is founded on similar principles to those of the Young Men's Association. It was organized by President Brigham Young, November 28th, 1869, for the purpose of promoting faith in God and knowledge of the Gospel of Christ, of leading its members to form high ideals of womanhood and prepare them to be useful and beneficial in the home, Church, and community. It has grown steadily in numbers, having about 36,000 in membership, including over 8,000 officers and class leaders.

From year to year courses of religious study have been provided, supplemented by lessons in ethics, home economics, history, and literature. Constant effort has been made to train and develop the talents of our young women along musical and literary lines, the *Young Woman's Journal*, the official organ of the association, having done much to encourage the gift of composition. During the last three years definite summer work has been provided in the form of Bee-hive industry. This aims to give practical training along the lines particularly adapted to girlhood.

During the year 1917 there has been a marked increase in all the activities of the association. The subjects of social service and propriety in dress, which have always received much attention, have been given special emphasis, with the result that much improvement has been noticed. Also, the members of the organization have responded enthusiastically to the calls of the government. They have entered into the work of food production and conservation, and in order to stimulate this movement, the general board has offered prizes for the drying of fruits, corn, peas, etc. The members have purchased Liberty Bonds in large numbers and have loyally supported the Red Cross, both in the raising of funds and in participating in its various activities.

PRIMARY ASSOCIATION.

The Primary Association stands in the front rank of the Church auxiliaries, and is recognized as equal at least to any of them. It was organized in 1878. It now has upwards of 800 associations with nearly 12,000 officers and close to 70,000 members. These belong in the different towns and villages in Utah and the adjacent states and countries, and instruction is imparted on subjects suitable to the capabilities and needs of children of both sexes. Lessons are given in religion, history, morality, industry, thrift, decorum, etc., and are rendered interesting and impressive by stories, work, and play.

HISTORIAN'S OFFICE
Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints

During the present year the Primary pupils have entered into the popular movement for cultivation and conservation, and aid to the soldiers called into war. About ten thousand useful articles have been made and sent by them to France. 2,000 glasses of jams and jellies have also been donated for Christmas delicacies. Many of the associations have gleaned wheat and potatoes and fruits from fields and orchards, and raised grain and vegetables, the general board having offered prizes amounting in the aggregate to $350 for the best yields on one-acre to five-acre lots.

These associations purchased $1,500 of Liberty Bonds, contributed also to Soldiers' Welfare fund, and worked in harmony with the Red Cross as officers and members. The *Children's Friend*, a magazine worthy of its name, is published monthly as the organ of the Primary Association and is self-sustaining, instructive, and prosperous.

RELIGION CLASSES EXPAND.

Another auxiliary known as the Religion Class has expanded remarkably during the present year. Every ward in every stake of the Church has a Religion Class, composed of children who attend the public schools, where religious instruction is barred, so that this essential training is not neglected. Religion Class conferences have been held with much profit in each of the organized stakes of Zion, and capable instructors have attended them, visiting also many of the wards and branches, and having frequently the personal direction of Apostles and other general authorities in this good cause. Class work is conducted under devoted teachers, aided by textbooks and manuals specially prepared. The interest thus aroused among the children is remarkable, and they learn to pray and bear testimony in public, to the joy of their parents and their own spiritual development. For the benefit of high-school pupils, seminaries for the conducting of Religion Class work have been established in many places, for which suitable buildings have been erected and qualified instructors have been employed. Bible classes have been attended by 1,203 high-school and 372 junior high-school students. The success of this movement is another cause of gratification and thanksgiving.

COMPILING HISTORICAL DATA.

Very gratifying is the removal to the new Church building of the offices of the General Church Historian and Recorder, wherein the principal events in the history and progress of the Church are compiled and placed on record. Copies are kept of the principal Church publications, including books, magazines, newspapers, etc. Anti-"Mormon" literature is also preserved there, with various historical works, ancient and modern.

(*Continued on page 106*).

STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE BRITISH MISSION.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 25TH, 1917.

Conferences.	Conference Presidents.	Missionaries.					Local Priesthood.					Members.	Children under 8 years old.	Total No. of Souls.	Baptized.	Excom'unicated.	Died	Answered Calls While Tracting.	Invitations In While Tracting.	Gospel Conversations	Tracts Distributed.	Pamphlets Distributed.	Copies of Book of Mormon Distributed.	Other Stan'rd Church Works Distributed.	Meetings Held.
		Apostle	H. Priests.	Seventies.	Elders	Ladies	H. Priests.	Elders.	Priests.	Teachers.	Deacons.														
Birmingham...	James Laird.....			2	3			17	17	17	24	676	167	918	33		7	6292	30	2469	39050	682	41	47	731
Bristol	S. H. Winter....			1	1			19	11	6	12	289	73	410	17		4	11154	28	2471	53928	1701	33	13	328
Hull	Wm. D. Lewis...		1		1			13	15	6	9	281	39	363	20		4	5430	16	1640	33901	384	8	12	602
Irish	Sidney L. Wyatt		1		2			15	12	2	13	253	58	353	27		6	18387	569	3617	59600	1735	20	3	410
Leeds	E. J. Robinson...			2	2			19	22	23	57	793	143	1057	34		11	19419	43	2343	58269	993	31	47	1165
Liverpool	J. T. B. Mason..			2	2			12	26	10	27	591	102	768	26	2	7	33374	111	1906	101330	758	23	8	749
London	J. G. McKay.....			4	1		1	35	29	5	29	883	137	1119	58	1	5	11405	37	2359	44207	834	61	70	1601
Manchester ...	L. F. Hewlett...			2	1			22	30	9	25	584	64	734	18		7	6503	24	1405	33617	793	22	34	1067
Newcastle.....	P. M. Condie....			2	1			11	17	13	32	460	120	653	30		8	17713	78	1975	43078	888	14	3	1038
Norwich	F. M. Skinner ...			1	2			9	11	3	2	142	17	184	14		7	2975	181	1579	42479	828	52	33	539
Nottingham ...	John D. Hooper			2	3			28	23	10	22	400	73	556	23		7	9890	64	1863	24430	1475	11	15	811
Scottish	R. C. Wilkin.....			3	1			20	8	9	24	486	86	633	14		4	67507	218	6457	130390	4705	36	30	440
Sheffield	H. S. Latimer...			1	1			14	12	8	16	325	66	441	5		4	5165	82	1476	62612	602	10	1	428
L'pool Office...		1	2		1	1																			
	Totals	1	4	22	22	1	1	234	233	121	292	6163	1145	8189	319	3	81	215214	1481	31560	726891	16378	362	316	9909
Local Priesthood of all Conferences																				8352	45297	2041		*223	†7089
Lady Missionaries of all Conferences																		114062	709	10576	294305	3173	176	231	
Grand Total ...																		329276	2190	50488	1066493	21592	538	770	9909

* Copies of Book of Mormon included. † Included in "9909."

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1918.

EDITORIAL.

FOR WINIFRED GRAHAM.

SOME of our readers have had an anti-"Mormon" article in a recent issue of *John Bull* pointed out to them, and they have, perhaps, expected to see a reply to it in the *Star*.

We did not intend to take any notice of it, since it is so palpably unfair and unreasonable, and so clearly inspired by animosity, that it carries its own refutation with it, to all who are capable of thinking as well as reading.

We have answered some former anti-"Mormon" efforts, by stating well-established facts, taking the charitable view that the authors were misled and would be glad to know the truth, but there are no extenuating circumstances that would justify a reply to the article in question. When an opponent proves that truth is of little value to him, and that his chief aim is to arouse prejudices and stir up hatred, and when, in pursuit of this aim, language is used that would disgrace anyone with even the least claim to refinement, no further notice can be taken of his efforts, but they must be left to the judgment of Him who, at the appointed time, will call all of us to account for every "idle" word spoken, including, we may be sure, those uttered against Him and against His people.

We have received some encouraging assurances from friends, which indicate that attacks of that kind have the opposite effect to that intended by the authors and publishers, proving that any reply on our part is not called for. Among the kind expressions received is the subjoined letter, which speaks for itself:

Redditch, January 28th, 1918.

Sir,—I saw, recently, in *John Bull* an attack on the "Mormon" people, and feel prompted to write a few lines to you.

I have a son in Utah. He is a married man. His wife is a Catholic. He is a Wesleyan. He has been in Utah seven years next March, and he gives the Latter-day Saints a splendid character. He wishes he had gone there years ago. He is a hair-dresser, and has bought the business he used to work in, and he has six men working for him. He has bought a nice house to live in.

I must also tell you that I have met some of those dreadful, bad-looking men referred to in the article, for I have given shelter to all the elders who have come this way. I have not embraced their faith, but I have

seen the nice place at Edge Lane, where you hold your meetings, and I know that there are no "dark rooms" there. I was in Liverpool four years ago. I am sorry I lost the card of the gentleman who was staying there, for I would have written to him, as he befriended me.

I had five daughters at the time I had the elders call at my house, and I can truthfully say that I never heard a bad, or loose, word pass the lips of any of the elders. My daughters are now married, and not one of them wants to hear the saints run down. I have some colored views of Salt Lake City. I should be glad to lend them to anyone who has not seen such views but would like to do so. I was pleased to see your address in *John Bull*, as that enabled me to write to you.

I am sorry that the woman mentioned in the article was so weak that she became frightened at the men at the door who wanted to shake hands with members of the audience. We Wesleyans always find members waiting to shake hands.

I am seventy years of age, but not childish; I would go to Utah, if I were younger. I know that the people there are free to come and go as they like, as are people in other parts of the world.

Dear Sir,—I do not know your name; nor do I know any of the "bad" men described; but I wish that all would investigate your principles, for then they might find out for themselves that I am right.

MRS. JANE CHAMBERS.

The lady, in a second letter, in answer to a request for permission to publish the first communication, says that she was acquainted with the late Elder John Henry Smith, and that she at one time had dinner at the mission headquarters at Islington, when President Wells (probably Rulon S.) was in charge of the European mission. She also expresses regret that she cannot attend our meetings at Edge Lane, Liverpool, because she lives too far away. Of the elders she has met, she says, "I found them to be splendid men. My husband also welcomed them, and I have had many blessings through their visits."

Thousands would be willing and able to corroborate this testimony, and it is not broken down, or even weakened, by any unsupported allegations, particularly if they are not dictated by a good, Christian spirit.

J. M. S.

I CANNOT believe in any of the creeds of the different denominations, because they all have some things in them I cannot subscribe to, though all of them have some truth. I want to come up into the presence of God, and learn all things; but the creeds set up stakes and say, "Hitherto shalt thou come, and no farther," which I cannot subscribe to.—JOSEPH SMITH, *History of the Church*, Vol. VI., p. 57.

IT has been estimated that there are forty thousand Jews in the British army, including eight thousand colonials. About thirty thousand are said to be in foreign service.

GOOD TIDINGS FROM ZION.

(*Concluded from page 102*)

The original manuscripts from which our Church history has been gleaned for publication are preserved there. About 15,000 volumes of valuable works on the world's history are included in the collection. The office is under the supervision of the Church Recorder and Historian and a number of competent clerks are therein employed. This is one of the most important Church institutions, and is ably conducted by the Assistant Historians and Recorders. The collection of authorities on the rise, progress, revelations, doctrines and discipline of the Church is invaluable, thus making up a story of the progress of the latter-day work that is a cause of great rejoicing on each recurring Christmas day.

GENEALOGICAL WORK.

The Genealogical Society of Utah, another important Church organization, claims special attention as a successful and growing institution. It was incorporated under the laws of Utah, November 13th, 1894. The purposes in view were and are to create a general desire to obtain genealogies of members of the Church from authentic sources, that the work of salvation for the dead might be performed according to the revelations of God through the Prophet Joseph Smith and his successors. This requires evidence of relationship, or other association, between those who have obeyed the laws and ordinances of the gospel and their ancestors and others for whom proxy-work is to be done.

Genealogical records of great value have been collected from many countries, forming a comprehensive library of 4,200 volumes. Representatives and workers operate in all the Stakes and Wards of the Church, who impart instruction on subjects associated with the Society. The *Genealogical Magazine* is issued monthly in its interest, lessons in genealogy are published as text books, and the Relief Society has a large body of lady instructors whose genealogical class-work deserves high encomiums.

The General Board holds monthly sessions and the number of enrolled life annual members has reached a present total of 2,972. The various labors for the departed are thus greatly facilitated, and the remarkable interest in genealogy exhibited in Europe and America ever since the coming of Elijah the Prophet to "turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and of the children to the fathers," assists wonderfully in the work of human redemption which this society was formed to promote.

CHURCH SCHOOLS GROW.

The progress of education in the Church schools, seminaries, academies, colleges, and universities is very gratifying. According

to the report made by the general superintendent of Latter-day Saints schools for 1917, who has visited all the Church schools with the exception of Bighorn Academy, the enrollment in the aggregate has increased largely, although many of the teachers and advanced pupils were called into the army early in the year, the total for 1917 being 7,585, with an average attendance of 6,006. The average cost per pupil is $72.

The total amount of receipts for the year, including the balance on hand, was $504,416.31. This includes $363,414.34 appropriated by the Church Board of Education, and the rest came from registration and laboratory fees, rent, entertainments, etc., etc. The disbursements for the year are $575,234.15, of which $352,974.47 is for salaries of principals and teachers, leaving a balance on hand of $29,162.16. Numerous items of interest concerning the Church-school work are embraced in the Superintendent's report, which can be obtained from its printed copies. Besides the Church Teachers' College, which gives a four-years' college course, two-year college courses are given in six of our institutions; and all give a four-years' high-school course.

Students attend from all parts of Utah and the surrounding states, quite a number of whom are not members of the Church. The theological course is not compulsory, but it is greatly desired and approved. Harmony exists among the teachers, who are united in their work and their interests in the welfare of their scholars. Special efforts have been made to train pupils in Church activities, and to prepare them for efficient work in all of the organizations of the Church. Morality is promoted, proper dress, especially by young ladies, is urged and required, the use of tobacco is prohibited, and excesses of any kind are forbidden. These educational institutions are entirely distinct from the district schools and high schools and other institutions under the direction of the State.

GENERAL WORK OF CHURCH.

The general work in the office of the Presiding Bishopric is carried on with its usual regularity and accuracy. Statistics, not only of Church membership and removals, but of public importance outside of Church circles, are kept, the entire business being conducted in a manner that is a credit to all engaged therein. To the Bishops of the several Wards and their clerks is due the supplying of details which are used in the compilation of the excellent records in the Bishop's office. Presidents of Stakes also are worthy of all praise in their conduct of the business in their respective communities. For the benefit of people seeking employment, as well as for those who wish to engage it, a bureau is established in the Presiding Bishop's office, which has been the means of providing work for thousands of persons of all classes and conditions in town and country. By its aid many who might

otherwise be in need at this joyful season are provided with plenty through their own exertions. A new feature has been added, called the Home Bureau, through which many families, including widows, are assisted to find locations and acquire land and homes.

The Bureau of Information continues to be a means of disseminating light and truth to visitors, who carry what they learn to distant places, correcting false reports and misapprehension concerning the Church, its aims, and principles. Its power for good increases with the years, and the effects thereof are felt throughout the world. The Deseret Museum has gradually advanced from a small collection of curios and specimens of Utah products and arts to a classified and expansive exhibition of Utah resources. Its singular antiquities, choice and valuable mineral deposits, as well as modern products and specimens of skill and art, make up a splendid presentation, equal to that which is to be seen in such depositories in many larger cities of the world. The prospects of permanent homes for this institution (that is, for its educational specimens suited for collegiate instruction, and those for ordinary exhibition) is gladdening to lovers of art, and the arrangement will benefit the traveling as well as the resident public.

TEMPLE WORK PROGRESSES.

Four Temples have been in continuous use for the performance of essential ordinances for the salvation and the exaltation of the living and the dead. The numbers of these ceremonies in holy places during the year 1917, all duly recorded, are amazing and gratifying and a cause of rejoicing here and "beyond the veil."

The Temple in Hawaii is closely nearing completion and that in Canada is also going forward correspondingly. Great improvements have been made in the other sacred structures, making possible larger attendance of devotees and increased services without haste or confusion. Also extensive additions to ward meeting houses have been made, amusement halls and gymnasiums have been erected, so that recreation might be enjoyed under proper direction and competent watchcare. Mission houses and chapels have been built in many localities in the United States and foreign countries.

The shock occasioned by the recent report that the Logan Temple was destroyed by fire, has been succeeded by the joyful news that the beautiful structure is itself intact in all its exterior grandeur, and that the interior can be repaired speedily and renewed to assume its original splendor.

NEW OFFICE BUILDING.

The grand new building containing the Church offices was completed in the spring of this year and is occupied by the First

Presidency, the Twelve Apostles, the first Council of Seventy, the Presiding Patriarch, Church Secretary, Trustee in Trust's offices and clerks, the Historian's and Genealogical offices and libraries, and those of the General Church Board of Education, the Sunday School Union, etc. It is a splendid edifice, commanding the admiration not only of the Latter-day Saints, but of tourists and visitors from all parts of the world. It was built by "Mormon" labor, including that of skilled artisans, and its architects were a son and a grandson of President Brigham Young.

The granite of the exterior, the solid monoliths, polished and fluted, onyx, travertine, and other valuable stones are Utah products. The foreign woods, furniture and other appointments were obtained from Utah mercantile firms, and the whole edifice is a monument to the spirit of progress which permeates the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. At this Christmastide the building, with its adornments and conveniences, is a source of pride and gladness to all who are interested in the welfare of the community.

CHURCH PUBLICATIONS.

In addition to the daily and semi-weekly editions of the *Deseret News*, which has prospered, financially and otherwise, during 1917, and numerous newspapers printed and published in Utah, many new literary works have issued from the press and have found places in outside publications. Notably, a series of writings by Dr. James E. Talmage on the "Articles of Faith" has been printed and reprinted in a large number of public journals throughout the United States and in foreign countries. The good effects of these efforts are to be seen and felt in the change of public sentiment concerning "Utah and the Mormons," notwithstanding the monstrous stories still told and repeated by conscienceless opponents of the Church.

Our missionaries are meeting with a glad welcome instead of with persecution and violence. "By their fruits ye shall know them," is being accepted as a Christian guide, and the good works accomplished by the people of this State have made their mark upon the public mind. Even the national government has commenced to perceive and comprehend the character of our citizens, and the fact of their being "Mormons" is becoming no barrier to their employment in the national service.

The appreciation which is evident in government circles of the services of our senators and representatives, is a matter of great rejoicing and satisfaction. "Can anything good come out of Utah?" is no longer heard among the intelligent and informed. Each of the chosen men sent from this State to the seat of government makes his mark upon his associates, and there is no State in the Union, of the size of Utah, which can boast of a stronger and more able body of men than those who come from these mountain vales.

Utah is proud of them and can count their services and the effects thereof among the highest of her many blessings.

Such well-known Latter-day Saints as Colonel Richard W. Young, Chaplain Brigham H. Roberts, Hon. James H. Moyle, and Colonel Willard Young, have received government appointments; also Frank G. Nebeker, George T. Odell, and other men of Utah prominence have been thus signalized. Prominent ladies of the auxiliary associations have been placed on national committees and their services fittingly appreciated. The hackneyed fiction of "Mormon disloyalty" has lost its power in the world, and the services of our brethren and sisters in Utah to the United States government in times of peril or need of efficient leaders, have put a quietus on the slanders of our enemies.

SUPPORT WAR FUNDS.

The investment of $250,000 in Liberty Bonds of the United States and of $10,000 in Canadian Victory Bonds, added to the individual investments by our people, with those of various auxiliary organizations, and the donations to the Red Cross society, amounting to very large sums, such as five thousand dollars from the Relief Society, two thousand five hundred dollars each from the Young Ladies' and Primary associations, and ten thousand dollars by the Sunday Schools, "like straws which show the way the wind blows," indicate the real sentiment of the saints and their affection for and fidelity to the Nation of which we form a part.

GOOD OUT OF EVIL.

The high cost of living, which has come to be a general grievance, is offset by the increased returns to the agriculturist and the merchant. Farmers rejoice over the splendid markets for their products, manufacturers for similar reasons, and even the laborer "who is worthy of his hire" obtains higher wages than those of former times, and thus there is real cause for congratulations among all classes of the community. This promotes generosity in giving, and donations for benevolent objects are increased and the circulation of money is active and widely perceptible. The harvests of the season have been bountiful and general, and while there have been some failures in crops, in the aggregate the yields are greater than in former years. Thus prosperity comes with the opening of the new Christmas day.

TITHING RECEIPTS INCREASE.

Notwithstanding the fact that many of our stalwart sons are in the military field, and the means at hand of our people have been so liberally bestowed, the tithing receipts during the present year have materially increased over those of past years, and this is true not only of the home contributions but of those from the islands of the sea and the antipodes, and even from the very nations that

are at war in Europe, the tithings have come in greater magnitude than ever. These are indications of prosperity as well as of faith and devotion that are gladdening to the soul.

Fast-day and other donations for the poor also exhibit the spirit of the people, and many of our mercantile and other corporations are showing generosity at this season. The distribution in this city through the Presiding Bishop's office by Z. C. M. I. of 150 tons of coal to the needy, irrespective of creed, is a sample of this good work.

PROHIBITION BRINGS RESULTS.

One of the greatest causes for rejoicing and congratulation during the present year has been the striking change that has appeared in our community, by the execution of the state-wide prohibition act of the Utah legislature, which has closed up the drinking saloons and almost completely suppressed the liquor traffic. This is noticeable by night and by day. Its effects are shown in the police court particularly, and in the diminution of crime generally. While it cannot be truthfully denied that some "boot-legging" is secretly carried on, and an occasional case of intoxication comes up for trial, the open sale of intoxicants is really suppressed.

Even in the mining district, employers can place greater dependence upon common labor, because instead of many workers being laid up for repairs on Monday morning, they are on time at their post and in better condition for duty than was formerly the case, because of the abstinence which has become general. Depression in business which was anticipated has not appeared; on the contrary, mercantile affairs are prosperous, and money formerly expended on harmful liquids, goes to the support of of families and indulgence in harmless amusements.

Mothers and children rejoice in this grateful change—cities are more peaceful and orderly, and everybody that desires the welfare of mankind appreciates the new order of things. The governor and the executive officers of the state and counties and cities are to be commended for their vigilant endeavors to fully execute the law, to give protection to the people and preserve public peace. There will be exceeding great joy this Christmas in thousands of homes as one of the splendid results of this successful movement.

CLOUDS HAVE SILVER LINING.

These are a few of the causes for rejoicing which prevail above the din and strife and tumult prevailing abroad. Even those angry clouds have their silver lining, because they are to us the fulfilment of divine prophecy through ancient and modern servants of God. We have looked for them for many years. They come with awful force and portent, but that which has

been made known convinces us that "the hand of Providence is over all," and that these sad events will result in good to mankind and the establishment of peace and free government.

Liberty will be triumphant. The discord of the world is a precursor and contrast of the full and glorious harmony to follow. Christmas comes glowing with good cheer and with promise of that reign of righteousness and peace of which Christ is to be the King. The woes of the world will pass away; the joys of heaven will take their place. The predictions of good things will all come to pass, everything in its season. So let us all be glad and thankful, looking forward to the time when tears shall be dried from every eye, and the world's Christmas shall come and spread its joyful sunshine for all the earth. "A merry Christmas and a happy New Year!"

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
ANTHON H. LUND,
CHARLES W. PENROSE.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

Memorial Services.—President Sidney L. Wyatt reports that well-attended services in memory of the late Elder Hyrum M. Smith were held in the Dublin and Belfast branches of the Church, on Sunday, February 3rd, 1918.

Lady Missionaries Meet.—On January 31st, 1918, at "Deseret," London, a Lady Missionary convention was held. "Tea" was served at 6:30. The following topics were discussed by the elders: "What is a Gospel Conversation?" Elder James H. Ludlow; "Efficient Tracting," Elder William A. Linford; "How to Obtain Spiritual Power," Elder Charles A. Welchman; and "Monthly Reports and How to Make Them," Elder Herbert P. Haight. Sister Hilda Beer bore her testimony, and instructions were given by President McKay.

DIED.

TAVENER.—January 14th, 1918, of tuberculosis, Sister Annie Cordelia Tavener, of the Portsmouth branch, London conference. She was born at Portsmouth, April 13th, 1889; was baptized June 15th, 1914, by Elder L. A. Southwick and confirmed the same day by Elder W. S. Evans. She lived a devoted and faithful Latter-day Saint.

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